

GR 3743

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Attorney Docket No. SAK-110

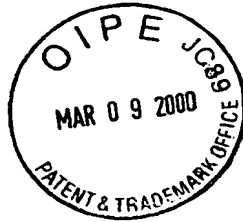
In re patent application of

SHIRAKAWA et al.

Serial No. 09/226,606

Filed: January 7, 1999

Title: HEAT TREATMENT APPARATUS



Group Art Unit: 3743

Examiner: J. Ford

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RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated February 11, 2000, Applicants hereby elect Group I (Figures 1-12 and 26-36). Applicants further hereby elect the 1st Species (Figures 1-8) which pertains to claims 1-4 and 7-12.

Applicants, of course, reserve the right to file a divisional application covering the subject matter of the non-elected group.

In regards to the nature of Figure 12, we are in the process of clarification with the inventors as to whether Figure 12 is "prior art." We will notify the Examiner as soon as we receive the required information. Receipt of the initial Office Action on the merits is awaited.

Date:

3/9/2000

Respectfully submitted,

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Should additional fees be necessary in connection with the filing of this paper, or if a petition for extension of time is required for timely acceptance of same, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 180013 for any such fees; and applicant(s) hereby petition for any needed extension of time.